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Strictly Confidential.

N O T E.

Violent recriminations on the Non-Brahmin question are going on in the Vernacular Press of the Country and attacks on Mr. Reddy are being published very frequently in some of the Mysore Papers under the influence of Mr. Venkatakrisnnayya. On the other hand, there is an impression that inspired by Mr. Reddy, an attempt is being made to disgrace Mr. Venkatakrishnayya and send him out of the School over which he has presided for more than 40 years. It is not an edifying spectacle that one of our high officers should be openly slandered before the public eye; nor does it seem right that a public man, who -- whatever his faults and failings -- has laboured unselfishly in the public cause for over 35 years, should be sent away in disgrace towards the close of his life.

2. It seems to me that an attempt should be made to put a stop to the attacks on Mr. Reddy and the controversy on the Non-Brahmin question on the one hand, and also to induce the members of the Marimallappa's School Committee not to deal ungenerously with Mr. Venkatakrishnayya. It seems quite possible to settle the squabbles to the satisfaction of both parties.

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3. The action I propose to take is somewhat as follows:-

Mr. Venkatakrishnayya will be asked to stop publishing attacks against Mr. Reddy and to refrain from discussing the Non-Brahmin question in a spirit of hostility. From a talk I had with him recently at Mysore, I gathered that he was quite willing to give an ndertaking to the above effect. At the same time, he wants that the troubles to which, he says, he is now subjected at the instigation of Mr. Reddy, should be stopped and that he should not be sent out of the school in disgrace. His requests are:-

(1) that he should not be retired in the summary fashion in which the Committee members have now decided;

(2) that he might be given a pension of Rs 100/- (His present salary is Rs 200/-); and

(3) that an Assistant Master of the school should be appointed to succeed him as Head Master.

The first two requests seem reasonable Mr. Venkatakrishnayya has now been given 3 months' notice to quit. If this notice is withdrawn and he is allowed to retire with effect from January next or earlier if the Committee be particular, the question will be satisfactorily settled.

Seems quite sufficient. What more does he expect? Is it entirely a matter for the Committee to decide. Why does Govt. interfere in their decision?

As regards his request for pension, Mr. Denham himself told me recently that it was only right that a pension of Rs 100/- should be given to Mr. Venkatakrishnayya. It is understood that the Committee have decided to give him a pension of Rs 50/-. Perhaps they may be induced to reconsider the matter and grant the enhanced pension asked for by Mr. Venkatakrishnayya. He states that he has sacrificed his all for the public, and it would not be seemly to deprive him of the means of livelihood in his old age.

The third request should be considered on its merits. The interests of the School should be paramount consideration and if the person nominated by Mr. Venkatakrishnayya is not qualified to hold the post of Head Master, other arrangements should be made and a competent man appointed

4. I had occasion to discuss the above questions in an informal way with Messrs. Denham and Reddy during my last visit to Mysore. Both of them seemed to welcome a settlement though Mr. Reddy added that he did not much care for the attacks made against him.

5. It may perhaps also be necessary to give a hint to the Editors of the "Star" and the "Vokkaligara Patrika" not to discuss the above questions in a hostile spirit, particularly in view of His High-

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Highness the Maharaja's gracious pronouncement on the Non-Brahmin question. I believe these papers will abide by our advice if properly approached.

(Intd.) M.V.

13-7-1918.